

1688. sincerely, he at once released him with all his men, except one single one, whom he wished to retain, he said, to replace one of his, who had been killed.<sup>1</sup>

He then used all diligence in returning to Michillimackinac, and as soon as he arrived there he presented his prisoner to Mr. de la Durantaye. That commandant, as yet uninformed of his general's negotiations with the cantons, at once condemned the unfortunate man to be shot, wishing apparently to spare him the torture of fire. The Iroquois in vain protested that he was an ambassador, and that the Hurons had taken him by treachery; the Rat had already notified all that his head was turned, and that fear of death made him rave. Accordingly, no one listened to him, and he was executed.<sup>2</sup>

As soon as he was dead, the Rat called an old Iroquois, who had long been a captive in his village, gave him his liberty, and advised him to return to his canton and inform his countrymen of what he had seen just passing before his eyes, as well as show them that while the French were amusing the cantons with feigned negotiations, they were making prisoners from them and tomahawking them. All this met with perfect success, and although the Iroquois seemed at first undeceived as to the pretended ill-faith of the Governor General, we shall soon see, either that they only pretended to be so, or that the majority were not sorry to have so plausible a pretext for renewing the war.<sup>3</sup>

The Governor of New York prevents peace.

The wisest were nevertheless determined to send new deputies to the Marquis de Dénouville. These deputies were even already selected, and about to start for Montreal, when an express arrived at Onondaga from Sir Edmund Andros, forbidding the Iroquois to treat with the French without his master's intervention. He added that

<sup>1</sup> La Hontan, Voyages, i., p. 191.

<sup>2</sup> La Hontan, Voyages, i., p. 192.

<sup>3</sup> N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., 391, 393, 402; Canada Doc., I., iv., 65, 85; La Hon-

tan, Voyages, i., p. 192. Colden (History of the Five Nations, p. 112

N. Y. edition) and Smith (History of New York, p. 56) follow La Hontan.